



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes

**August 27, 2025, at 6:00pm
Silver Threads Senior Centre**

Present:

Councillor Lisa Coutu, Chair
Natalie Chaumont, Vice-Chair
Deputy Mayor, Theresa Sabourin
Becky Conroy
Ellen Wong
Joshua Vardy
Patrick Aird

Regrets:

Maryse Ahow

Also Present:

Natasha Collins, Staff Resource

1. Call to Order

Lisa Coutu, Chair for the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment

The land acknowledgement including a Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action was read.

3. Adoption of Agenda (additions/deletions)

Moved by Joshua Vardy and seconded by Natalie Chaumont, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

5. Adoption of Minutes

(a) May 28, 2025

Moved by Theresa Sabourin and seconded by Joshua Vardy, that the minutes previously circulated be adopted. Motion carried.

(b) July 23, 2025

Moved by Natalie Chaumont and seconded by Joshua Vardy, that the minutes previously circulated be adopted. Motion carried.

6. Introductions/Presentations/Correspondence

No items to report.

7. Board Member Check-In

Board members provided verbal updates.

8. Financial Report

(a) Detailed Budget Trial Balance to August 26, 2025

Lisa Coutu to confirm if invoice was provided to CNL for \$250.00.

Moved by Becky Conroy and seconded by Joshua Vardy that the detailed trial balance to August 26, 2025, which was provided by the Finance Department, be received as information. Motion carried.

9. New Business

(a) Men's Healing Circle Update

Medicine Wheel Teaching scheduled for September 6, 2025, 10AM–4PM – all are welcome.

The Men's Healing Circle is progressing well, with consistent attendance from regular participants. Attendance was as follows: 4 on July 29; 5 on August 5, 12, and 19; and 2 on August 26.

A ¼-page ad appeared in the August 14th *Petawawa Post*, costing approximately \$200.

Future advertisements will use the name *Men's Healing Circle* on posters, supported by a new email address that reflects the inclusion of surrounding communities; participation agreements will be provided in response to email inquiries.

Group remains interested in exploring additional ways to advertise, including Ellen Wong contacting CNL regarding donation of radio time; discussed potential options such as interviews and "stories" with local journalists and TV stations.

(b) Municipal Inclusion Charter and Welcome Package Project

Natalie Chaumont met with Gabriella from LIP to discuss the Welcome Package project.

The package will be approximately 10 pages, available in digital format, and offered in five languages.

Intended partners and participants include PMFRC, school boards, local businesses, realtors, library, Petawawa Pantry, and others.

Content is still being finalized, with possible inclusion of a Mayor's message and ESL resources.

LIP offers a mentorship program similar to Big Brothers Big Sisters, with both short-term and long-term goals.

(c) Commitment to Inclusion Program Update

Lisa Coutu met with Elder Pats' wife to review the script for reaching out to local businesses.

A digital contact list has been shared with the committee to track outreach and avoid duplication of efforts.

Plans to celebrate after receiving five acceptances.

Although there was significant interest at the showcase, no follow-up has occurred.

The recreation guide will feature the Commitment to Inclusion Program.

(d) Blanket Exercise

Becky Conroy spoke with Amy; quote remains unchanged.

Potential event dates are October 10, 17, or 24, as September dates are unavailable.

Lisa Coutu to email Colin Howard, CAO, and Matthew Corbett, Library CEO, hoping for maximum staff involvement.

Maryse Ahow will explore catering options such as Kokomish in Golden Lake and Manitou Bistro in Renfrew.

(e) Legacy of Hope Exhibit

Ainsley Christensen indicated October as a potential date, with an estimated cost of approximately \$750.

A new exhibit on allyship is planned.

Potential donation of CNL radio time discussed.

Further details will be presented at the September meeting.

(f) Welcoming Week Support

Welcoming Week is scheduled for September 12–21.

Lisa Coutu will create a welcome message to be shared on the Town's social media.

Mayor Serviss will be invited to open a council meeting by acknowledging Welcoming Week

LIP will be sharing moments throughout the week.

(g) Truth and Reconciliation Day Event

Truth and Reconciliation event scheduled for September 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Local schools to be invited; higher attendance expected as it falls on the actual date.

AOPFM confirmed to attend; committee to cover costs (up to \$3,000, pending quote).

Moved by Theresa Sabourin and seconded by Natalie Chaumont, that the EDI Committee approves the spending of up to \$3000.00 towards the attendance of AOPFM. Motion carried.

(h) Cultural Awareness Training

Will reach out to the Legion Auxiliary for catering.

Training to be hosted in Petawawa, planned for October or November.

Invitations to be extended to staff, council, committee, and library, with up to 12 attendees.

Moved by Joshua Vardy and seconded by Ellen Wong, that the EDI Committee approves the spending of up to \$1500.00 towards the attendance of EDI Committee members. Motion carried.

10. Board Member Check-out

Board members provided verbal follow-ups.

11. Date of Next Meeting

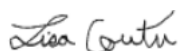
(a) September 24, 2025

The date of the next meeting was confirmed by the EDI Committee as noted above.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Joshua Vardy and seconded by Ellen Wong, that the meeting adjourns at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes recorded and respectfully completed for presentation by Natasha Collins.



Signature of the Chair

September 24, 2025

Date Minutes Approved